

The Initiative for Native Nation Relations

January 2023 | Issue #2

Editor: Macy Ellis (CSB '25)



Welcome!

Welcome to the second issue of the Initiative for Native Nation Relations Newsletter! INNRR's mission is to draw on the resources of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University to engage, collaborate with and serve Native Nations. In this issue, you will learn about the achievements of the INNRR team, the events we hosted, the next steps for our research and service projects, and the events we have planned for Spring 2023.

Everything we achieved this fall is thanks to a team effort, involving collaborations between Native Nations, monastics, CSB+SJU students, faculty, and staff, as well as INNRR friends and alum who have generously contributed time and resources.

The INNRR Newsletter is published semi-annually, so please look out for an update this summer. Until then, if you would like to get in touch, please email INNRR Director Ted Gordon (tgordon@csbsju.edu).

General Updates

This Fall was a busy time for INNR. Here are some of our current projects:

- We're recording oral histories from the St. Benedict's Mission School at White Earth. This project is a collaboration between INNR, St. Benedict's Monastery, The Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the White Earth Nation, and the Niibi Center for the Rights of Nature. It's funded by the McKnight foundation.
- We are developing a plan to digitally repatriate records from the St. Benedict's Mission School to the White Earth community by centering their community's desires for making some materials at White Earth and INNR research assistants developing a complete inventory of all White Earth records (at least 5,000 pages!) held at St. Benedict's Monastery and St. John's Abbey. This project is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is part of their More Perfect Union Initiative, which commemorates the upcoming 250th anniversary of America's independence.
- We are locating and inventorying the entirety of the St. John's Abbey's Indian Artifact Collection to assist the Abbey in repatriation consultation.

General Updates (continued)

In addition to our projects, INNR's fall was busy with programming:

- We collaborated with Fine Arts Programming to support the art exhibit "Indigenous Survivance," curated by Travis Zimmerman (SJU '94, Grand Portage Descendent), featuring the work of Minnesota-born Indigenous artists.
- In September, INNR students presented at Healing Stories, a boarding school dialogue and healing session hosted by the Niibi Center at White Earth's Shooting Star Casino. After the day-long session, INNR and the Indigenous Student Association, were invited to attend White Earth's Fall Drum Ceremony.
- INNR and the McCarthy Center joined other campus departments and programs in co-sponsoring Winona LaDuke's talk "Envisioning Spiritual, Political, and Ecological Transformation."



Ptanyetu Powwow

General Updates (continued)



Ted Gordon honored with star blanket at the Fall Powwow



Moses Wiseman at the Festival of Cultures

- November marked the grand return of St. Cloud's powwow, with CSB and SJU joining St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, and ISD 742 sponsors. SCSU founded the powwow 25 years ago but the pandemic forced a 2-year hiatus. This year, the powwow returned with a new name: Ptanyetu (meaning Autumn in Dakota). The INNR team provided key logistical support, creating flyers and organizing volunteers. With over 75 dancers and 7 drum groups in attendance, the powwow came back strong and INNR looks forward to supporting it again next fall.
- Some other events involved having the Indigenous Student Association meet with author Diane Wilson, Ted Gordon presenting at the UM Morris Boarding School Teach-In, and Moses Wiseman being featured in the Festival of Cultures fashion show.



Thank you to the 2022-
2023 INNR student
workers:

Macy Ellis '25
Savannah Supan '24
Noah Friendshuh '25
Andrew Jurek '25
T Meier '25
Kathryn Schug '25
Fardusa Ahmed '24
Sydney Richter '23
Mearen Girgen '25
Liam Miller '23
Stanislaw Jank '25
Hannah Lysne '23

Want to support our work?

- Give to INNR
 - Giving through CSB
 - givecsb.com
 - Giving through SJU
 - givesju.com
- Take a look at our [growing web page!](#)

Contact us

 [@innr_csbsju](https://www.instagram.com/innr_csbsju)

 [@isa.csbsju](https://www.instagram.com/isa.csbsju)

[INNR's Facebook!](#)

email: innr@csbsju.edu



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Saint Joseph, MN 56374



Upcoming event!

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

Thursday, Jan 26 | 7:00 p.m.
Pellegrene Auditorium, SJU

**Indigenous Knowledge
and Spirituality for
Sustainability**



author of
**Braiding Sweetgrass
& Gathering Moss**



Land Acknowledgement

Both the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University occupy the original homelands of the Dakhóta and Anishinaabe peoples. We honor, respect, and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples forcibly removed from this territory, whose connection remains today.

St. Benedict's Monastery and St. John's Abbey previously operated boarding schools for Native children. Now students, faculty, & staff are working to repair relationships with our Native Nation neighbors.

Statement written by the Indigenous Student Association at the College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University. Letterpress printed in '22 for the Initiative for Native Nation Relations & Fine Arts Programming at CSB SJU by Rachel Melis using handset type on paper made by Sienna Cherrico '12 from locally-grown flax, native bluestem, and invasive reed canary grass.

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